

In his news conference July 28, Lyndon said "Hanoi has set forth its own proposals. We are ready to discuss their proposals...." The New York Times of July 28 listed the four Hanoi proposals, among them "a complete United States military withdrawal from South Vietnam." The Times article said, further, that "the proposals had appeared to be 'preconditions' unacceptable to the United States. Now, officials say, other statements by Hanoi and the Chinese Communists and certain diplomatic indications have made it less clear that they are, in fact, 'preconditions'".

The Times article did not say what these "statements" and "indications" are. However, on July 30 the Washington Post ran an article by a British woman who had interviewed Ho Chi Minh on July 8. The British woman asked Ho whether the Hanoi proposal quoted above meant that North Vietnam wanted to negotiate the withdrawal of U.S. forces, or whether the proposal meant that North Vietnam was unwilling to negotiate until such forces are withdrawn. Ho replied that Hanoi is not prepared to negotiate until the U.S. forces are withdrawn.

In his big blast for "peace" through the United Nations Lyndon sounds like sweet reason itself--"we fear the meeting room no more than the battlefield"--but at the same time he knows very well that Hanoi is firmly maintaining its determination not to negotiate under the guns of the American military (we assume here, of course, that Lyndon's intelligence apparatus--The CIA, the military intelligence services, the Defense Department intelligence agency, etc.--is at least as efficient as the Washington Post's).

It looks like Lyndon's "peace offensive" is just another cover-up which he hopes will make the U.S. action in Vietnam look respectable. If you compare what Lyndon says, with what he does, we see no other possible conclusion.

Furthermore, when Lyndon says that he wants "free elections" in South Vietnam, he means his own brand of "free election"--the kind by which he actually got elected to the Senate in 1948. Lyndon's old friend, Senator Russell of Georgia, said just four after the press conference, that if any election were held in Vietnam today, Ho Chi Minh would undoubtedly win it. Is there anyone in the house who thinks Lyndon and his friends are going to let Ho Chi Minh be elected to run both North and South Vietnam?

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And what about the razzle-dazzle at the press conference, when Lyndon disappointed the warhawks by refusing to call up the reserves, and by making it look like the U.S. was going to take it real easy for fear of going too far in Vietnam? The reporters who pry into such things in Washington figure that Lyndon was afraid to call out the reserves and make it

unmistakeably clear that he's going all out, whatever it takes, to whip the Vietnamese people into line. The reporters say there's so much opposition to the Vietnamese war among congressmen that Lyndon figured they'd rebel if he went too fast. So, it looks like Lyndon will just take one step at a time, until he's got us so far in that the congressmen will have to go along with him.

Meanwhile, he's got his old friend Jim Eastland, using the Internal Security Subcommittee, attacking the folks who don't want war. The Subcommittee is now gathering evidence on people who're involved in the teach-ins and other demonstrations against the war. When Lyndon figures he's got the country stirred up enough against those "little yellow devils" in Vietnam, he can give his buddy Jim the word, and Jim can begin holding public hearings, with his crew of tame finks on the witness stand, showing that anybody who doesn't want to die for the right of the American Corporate Empire to control the world, is a traitor.

#### Statesmanship in the Great Society.

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On July 27, the Times ran three pictures showing what happens to Vietcong soldiers when they get captured by our boys. We can't reproduce the pictures here, but the cutlines tell the story. Picture number one said: "One of 13 men captured by South Vietnamese soldiers in Tamloc area, is beaten by questioner." Picture number two said: "Another of the 13 is beaten as the interrogators seek to obtain information about locations of guerillas and arms." Picture number three said: "After placing a cloth over this man's face, the soldiers pour water on him /on his face, so he can't breathe/, as a further inducement for him to talk. He finally told where two shotguns were hidden."

These were only three in a long series of documented instances of torture and inhumanity on the part of U.S. and "Government" forces. The latest occurred August 2 when U.S. marines killed three women and a child as they destroyed a village they thought might have some Vietcong fighters in it.

On July 28, the Times reported that Lyndon is trying to get this kind of thing stopped in Vietnam. The Times said that the State Department disclosed that it was conducting discussions with the South Vietnamese Government in an effort to curb what is reported to be the frequent use of torture by South Vietnamese troops to extract information."

If the whole mess didn't involve so much human misery, that would be funny. Here's Lyndon's Government, through its representatives, "conducting discussions" with the "South Vietnamese Government". That makes it sound like one sovereign state, the U.S., dealing with another, South Vietnam, trying to get Vietnam to change its policy.

Actually the relationship between the two, the U.S. and the

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"South Vietnamese Government" is more like the relation between an employer and his employee. Look at this.

The Times reported, July 27, on the situation in one district in South Vietnam. The American "adviser" there, Army Major Shalala, "has been as intolerant of South Vietnamese weakness as he is determined to eradicate the Vietcong...." The Times story goes on: "When Major Shalala was assigned here nine months ago, he immediately judged that the district chief / highest local authority of the "South Vietnamese Government" / was inadequate. Without regard for niceties, he appealed for the removal of the chief. When the successor proved equally inadequate, he bluntly called for another change." And he got it.

Adviser--or governor ?

And look at this. The current issue of Fortune Magazine carries an article by one of its editors just back from a tour of Vietnam. Here's what he says about the relation between the U.S. and South Vietnam:

"The running costs /to the U.S./ of the Vietnamese operation appear to have risen to about \$2.2 billion annually. These costs break down roughly as follows: continuing economic aid to keep the Saigon Government afloat and to pay the bureaucracy--about \$300 million annually; other economic support to the Vietnamese infrastructure--about \$70 million annually; military assistance programs (weapons, pay for the Vietnamese forces, overhead cost of the U.S. military advisory establishment--about \$330 million annually; indirect costs represented by other forms of U.S. participation--including the combat forces, day-to-day military operating costs--that are absorbed by the U.S. defense budget--an estimated \$800 million annually...."

Now here's a "government" whose officials and bureaucracy are paid by Lyndon, whose military payroll is met by Lyndon, whose entire military force is equipped by Lyndon, most of whose industrial and financial resources are supplied by Lyndon--here, in brief, is a "government" which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Lyndon's American Corporate Empire--and when Lyndon and his friends want to change the policy of this wholly-owned lackey of theirs--want to stop, so they say, the torture of prisoners--they must "conduct discussions."

The truth is, of course, that Lyndon has no intention of stopping the torture of prisoners. If he had he certainly would not permit the U.S. forces to participate in it and give the kind of example to the "government forces" that the marines did the other day.

But wathh Lyndon make his move to stop the reporting of such incidents to the home folks who are asked to give up their sons for the high ideals--the freedom--Lyndon says he wants to bring to the people of Vietnam.

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A few weeks ago we were talking about the training of Latin American labor leaders by a coalition of big business, big labor, and Lyndon's Agency for International Development. At that time we mentioned the fact that J. Peter Grace, Chairman of W.R. Grace & Co. was also chairman of the trustees of the outfit that does this "training".

Comes word now that J. Peter Grace's company, along with International Paper Co., is going to invest \$37 million in a paper and pulp mill in Cali, Colombia. With that word also comes word that we (the U.S. public) will agree to pay W.R. Grace & Co. and International Paper Co. any losses they may suffer due to "loss by expropriation /that's what happened when Castro won in Cuba/, war, revolution and insurrection."

There really isn't too much danger of our having to pay them anything for loss from expropriation. Lyndon made that right clear when he sent the troops into the Dominican Republic.

Lyndon don't believe in messin' into the internal affairs of the Latin American countries. Oh no--because, you see, we agreed we wouldn't do that when we signed the OAS treaty. But just the same, Lyndon ain't gonna let them "greasers" get away with doin' any hurt to his friends and their property. That ain't messin' in internal affairs. That's just good business.

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Lyndon's Office of Education is the agency which is supposed to be policing the southern school systems to be sure they don't continue to discriminate against black children as they spend the millions Lyndon's giving them under the new federal aid to education program. The Office of Education frequently issues news releases telling what a marvelous change has taken place in the southern "heart".

We're told that only a few die-hard school systems are refusing to file with the Office of Education satisfactory "compliance statements" and "desegregation plans." The truth about these "compliance statements and desegregation plans" came out during Lyndon's recent White House Conference on Education.

David Seely, head of the Office of Education's desegregation program said that "most of the desegregation plans, north and south, are intended to facilitate the minimum amount of integration."

The Civil Rights Act of 1964, for the enactment of which Lyndon took most of the credit, did not say that it would be U.S. policy to promote a token amount of school integration. The Act forbade, flatly and without qualification, the use of federal funds in any program which was infected with racial discrimination.

It was Lyndon who decided that it would be all right to continue giving money to his friends in the South, if they'd

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just put a good face on things, and not openly admit they're running segregated schools.

"We Shall Overcome"--he said.

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The Great Medicare Bill that Lyndon flew all the way to Missouri to sign is like a full garbage pail in the summer sun--nice and shiny on the outside, but teeming with maggots within.

Lyndon has the reputation of being a real wizard when it comes to getting controversial bills through Congress. The medicare bill is a pretty good example of how he does it. The money for the medical care and the doctor's bills of the old folks will come from taxes. But it won't be spent by the U.S. Government. Mercy no--that would be socialism, wouldn't it ?

Lyndon had the bill written so that the private hospitalization companies, particularly the Blue Cross-Blue Shield (which is controlled by the wealthy doctors and the wealthy hospital trustees) will actually handle the claims and pay out the tax money.

Thus Lyndon will take the money for medicare out of your paycheck, and turn that money over to the doctors and the hospitals and then they can pay themselves when the old folks come in for treatment. It looks to us like this ensures that the treatment the old folks get will be minimum, and the payment the doctors and hospitals get will be maximum.

There have been other times and other places when governments took the people's money away in taxes and gave it to the rich. When Mussolini did it in Italy it was called Fascism. When Hitler did it in Germany it was called Naziism. When Lyndon does it in the U.S., it's called the Great Society.

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Lyndon's gettin' on in years, and one day he wants to have a little piece of land he can retire to and live out his days in the bucolic bliss of the Texas countryside. He's got about 14,000 acres in Texas right now. But Lyndon is a pretty good-sized ol' boy, and he needs lots of room.

So he took a little of the spare cash he's been saving up from his public servant's salary all these years (he's saved about \$10 million, we're told, from a total income of not more than \$2 million in those years) and bought another 4,000 acres. Now he's looking at another piece that measures 26,000 acres. If he buys that piece he oughta have enough room to run a few cattle, and some left over for Ladybird's garden.

They're such a sweet ol' couple.  
(copyright pending)

August 5, 1965--Jack Minnis